

HOUSE BILL 3136
By Clem

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 6, Part 4, relative to secondary school
athletics.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 4, is amended by
adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

§ 49-6-4__.

(a) No athletic association that sponsors tournament championship series in
which public schools participate shall require a private religious school to participate in a
different division from public schools in such tournament series because the religious
school grants need-based financial aid to enable student-athletes who are bona fide
adherents of the religion with which the school is affiliated to receive a religious
education.

(b) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "Bona fide adherent of the religion with which the school is affiliated"
means the student-athlete, a parent of the student-athlete or a guardian of the
student-athlete has been a recognized member of a church, temple, synagogue,
mosque, congregation or other group that follows the tenets of the religion with
which the school is affiliated for at least one (1) year prior to the student-athlete's
participation in interscholastic athletics at the religious school;

(2) "Guardian" means an adult with whom the student-athlete has lived
for twelve (12) or more months;

(3) "Need-based financial aid" means aid provided by the school because neither the student-athlete nor the student-athlete's parent or guardian is able to pay the costs of attendance, in whole or in part, to obtain a religious education at the private religious school;

(4) "Religious school" means a parochial school or a school operated by a denomination or other bona fide religious organization that provides instruction to students in the faith, beliefs, doctrines or tenets of the particular religion with which it is affiliated; and

(5) "Student-athlete" means a student participating in interscholastic athletics.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006, the public welfare requiring it.